

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. In the absence of processing unit in the area, the green leaves are sold to nearby Tea factories in west Bengal to get remunerative price.

(c) The District Authorities in Kishanganj are looking after tea development activities (under the guidance of Tea Board). The Tea Board has appraised the District Administration of the need for setting up processing units under Co-operative or State Government Sector. Tea Board, under the existing schemes provide long term loan for setting up of processing units in the co-operative sector and subsidiary of Rs. 40,000/- per hectare to the needy farmers for plantation activity.

Shortage of Soyabean in the Country

2954. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is shortage of soyabean in the country;
- (b) if so, the quantity of shortage;
- (c) whether Government are importing the same;
- (d) if so, the names of the countries from where it is imported; and
- (e) the import price of soyabean?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) There is no shortage of soyabean in the country. The production of soyabean has been increasing and during the last three years has been as under:—

Year	Production (in Lakh MTs)
1997-98	64.63
1998-99	69.42
1999-2000	68.40

(Source: Department of Agriculture and Cooperation)

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) and (e) Do not arise.